The DX Bulletin

• *America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication* •

ISSUE 288 MAY 24, 1985

PROPAGATION: May 24, 25, Low Normal; May 26, High Normal; May 27, Low Normal; May 28, High Normal; May 29, Distorbed; May 30, High Normal; May 31, High/Low Normal; Jun 1, High Normal; Jun 2, Low Normal; Jun 3-10, High Normal. (Last 13 forecasts are long range, 27-day). TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux (85)	Alpha (85)	K (85)
212	128	140	127	5/10	90	6	4
222	130	165	148	5/11	88	10	2
219	130	159	142	5/12	90	12	3
217	127	151	147	5/13	90	12	3
228	129	153	148	5/14	90	9	2
214	129	143	144	5/15	91	16	3
214	136	133	137	5/16	93	12	3
203	142	130	134	5/17	90	7	3
190	143	134	127	5/18	91	11	3
189	152	143	129	5/19	88	11	2

KH6BZF Reports long-range forecast for the CQ CW WPX Contest (May 25/26) is excellent-to-good conditions the first day, unsettled to active geogmagnetic conditions the second day, with possible storm conditions around the contest weekend.

DXCC NEWS

Although DXCC members may begin submitting QSLs for the RAF Cyprus bases beginning June 1, the best advice is not to do so immediately. One reason is that just which stations/QSLs are going to count is still being determined.

Another is that the next Honor Roll deadline is not until March, 1986. And the deadline for the annual listing in December QST is not until September, and those DXers with totals over 250, who are eligible for the "once per year" submission of only one QSL, would be wise to not waste it yet.

If your Cyprus credit is already a ZC4, you must submit both a 5B4 QSL and a ZC4 QSL, to get credit for both the bases and for Cyprus. This is because the master records in Newington contain only the callsign of the QSL you submitted, not the date of the QSO. If you wait and do nothing, most likely nothing will happen to your DXCC total until you make a submission. At that time, the DXCC Desk will check your Cyprus credit to determine what should be done.

If your credit is a 5B4, no change will take place, but if your credit is a ZC4, it will be deleted, since the DXCC Desk cannot determine if the contact took place after the 1960 "magic" date. If you possess only a ZC4 card, from one of the bases, after the magic date, and you resubmit it, your credit will change to the bases instead of Cyprus, but your total will stay the same.

The DXCC Honor Roll will make its annual appearance in June QST. The bottom level for the CW Honor Roll this time will be 301...meaning the top spot is 310 out of 315. There will be 56 DXers on the CW Honor Roll.

The DXCC Desk informs us that the engraved plates to go on your Honor Roll plaque are "in the works" but not ready for shipment. They have sold over 200 of the plaques so far.

The DX Advisory Committee is expected to vote soon on the Pribilof Islands and on the Vienna Internationan Center (4U1VIC). A letter recently received at TDXB from Alaska accused us of mis-reporting the Pribilofs issue. We confirmed our reports with a highly-placed source in Newington and can confirm what we have reported; namely, that the first vote in the DXAC on the Pribilofs, 9-7 opposed to country status, was recorded but subsequently thrown out on a technicality. The second vote was an 8-8 tie.

As for 4U1VIC, DXAC votes have been overwhelmingly opposed to granting it DXCC status, for reasons which have been outlined in these pages before.

A roundup of DXCC acceptibility...the DXCC Desk is examining papers for recent 5X5 Uganda operations. No documentation has been received for 5U7LD. DJ5CQ/SV/A does not count, nor do F6BFN/TT, G3JKI/5A and TI9VVR. J5U91 counts on 40 Meters only.

73 Magazine Editor/Founder Wayne Green Resigns

After 25 years, 73 magazine's editor and driving force W2NSD has departed. He began his amateur radio career with CQ Magazine in the late 1940's and left to form 73 in 1953.

The departure came as no surprise to those who have followed the magazine in recent years. Wayne is still an executive in a publishing conglomerate which includes 73 as one of many technical magazines.

Only a handful of 73 staff members on the masthead of the June issue have callsigns. Neither the publisher nor the executive editor have callsigns listed.

Computerized "DX Edge"

N2UN announces that Xantec, Inc. is working on an improved, faster computerized DX Edge. They hope to have it ready soon and will swap owners of the current product for a $1 handling fee. No word on when the program will be available for computers other than the Commodore, though.

Copyright *The DX Bulletin*. *The DX Bulletin* **(ISSN 0279-8077) is published fifty times per year. Subscription rates available upon request.** *The DX Bulletin* **is published at Burnap Brook Road, Andover, CT 06232: Second-class postage paid at Andover, CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to** *The DX Bulletin*, **Andover, CT 06232.**

24 MHz band - Comment

Amateurs in the U.S. will have use of the new 24 MHz band June 22, and the move is already on to get ARRL's board of directors to allow some contest and awards credit there.

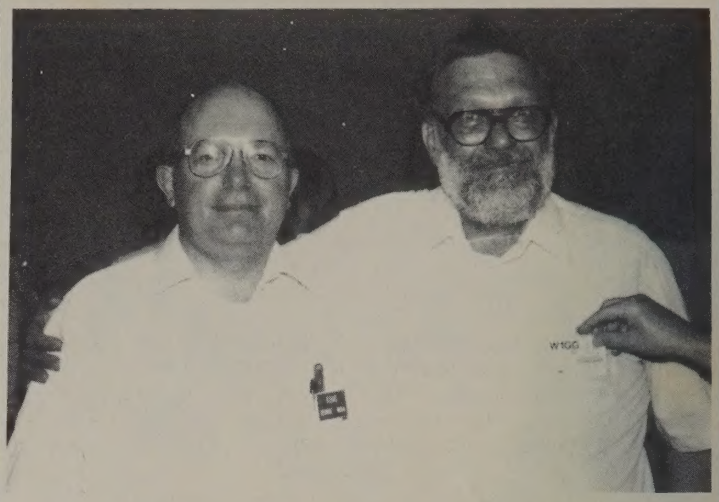
Recall that the first WARC band to open for Americans, 10 MHz, was not allowed DXCC or contest work because many countries around the world did not have use of the band. This made sense for international competitions, but not for such domestic activities as the November Sweepstakes and Field Day. And it would have made sense for DXCC only if a very rare country appeared only on 10 MHz.

Well, 10 MHz has lain fallow, a field plowed but not seeded, for a couple of years. Initial interest was slim, and activity went from poor to almost non-existent. Now that sunspot levels have declined, the same or worse awaits 24 MHz.

It seems like Field Day would be a marvelous time for people, newcomere and old timers alike, to try the new band at 24 MHz, and the 10 MHz band, too. It would be a good opportunity to explore the propagation on both bands.

After the WARC, in November, 1979, 10 MHz held promise of filling the propagation gaps during the Sunspot Minimum, and it could still fulfill that role. As for 24 MHz, it will be a cross between 10 and 15 Meters. That is, even for the next couple of years it could produce good DX openings during the winter. In the summer, it will be a Sporadic-E paradise.

A letter to your ARRL director could help get the policy changed in time for the 1985 Field Day.



Gee! George Guerin, K8GG (left) and Gary Gaudette, W1GG, graciously greeting guests at Dayton.

Five years ago in *The DX Bulletin*

(May 23, 1980): The Oscar Phase 3 satellite was scheduled for launch May 23 from French Guiana, and there was to be live coverage via amateur radio on 40-10 meters. The IDXF announced that it was helping fund an African operation by Ed Richmond, W4MGN; included were 6W8, C5, TZ, XT, 5V7, TY, and TU, to begin June 20. K5KG was going to the Aland Islands in June.

A REVIEW OF THE DESIGN ELECTRONICS OHIO QSK 1500

by PAUL YOUNG, K1XM

QSK has always intrigued me. I like being able to hear while I am sending. I used to operate that way as a novice, but since my "upgrade" to a modern transceiver, it's been one thing I've missed. The TS930S allows it barefoot, but my SB220 is incapable of such things.

The biggest problem with QSK has always been that of switching the antenna between the transmitter and receiver. There are three methods which I've used in the past:

Separate transmit and receive antennas worked fine for me as a novice, but it's impractical these days. I can't fit one 80 Meter dipole on my property, let alone two, and I certainly can't put up another 40 Meter beam just to listen on.

Many commercial amplifiers use vacuum relays. The problem with vacuum relays is that they are only rated for a couple of million operations. Someone has calculated that a vacuum relay could easily quit after about three contests. This is also what the late Jim Lawson, W2PV, found during his multi-transmitter contest operations.

Various electronic T/R switches using vacuum tubes have been around for years. I used to have one build around a 6BZ6. Early Alpha amplifiers used a circuit with a dual-gate MOSFET. Electronic T/R switches typically reduce receiver sensitivity and/or intermod capabilities, things DXers don't want to give up. Also, they are prone to "suck-out," where the received signal is shorted out by the transmitter output circuit, and can be blown up by a bad antenna match or too high power.

The QSK-1500 is a new kind of electronic T/R switch. By using pin diodes, the sensitivity problems of the earlier T/R switches are avoided. And by disconnecting the amplifier output from the antenna, the suck-out problem also is avoided.

But nothing is perfect, including the QSK-1500.

It adds a lot of complexity to a ham station. It has eight connections, plus the power cord. It breaks the keyer line, the amplifier input line, the amplifier output line, and the amplifier key line. The manual is excellent and the QSK-1500 is easy to install, but it's still a lot of wires.

It adds another on/off switch to the station, and it must be near the amplifier, using prime station space. I use a separate amplifier for 160 Meters, and it would involve a major station redesign to use the QSK-1500 with both amplifiers.

The QSK-1500 is SWR sensitive. It does not like SWRs above 2:1. If you tune your KW into the wrong antenna you can blow something up, (fortunately, that's usually the light bulb in the protection circuit). When the QSK-1500 is connected I feel like I am using one of the early radios with solid-state finals. And I would like to disconnect it completely during phone contests, but that would require a 4PDT coax switch.

The unit cannot handle 1500 watts continuously. For slow scan TV or RTTY it must be disconnected, which would be a major nuisance for someone using those modes frequently.

Whether the unit is worth it in your station depends on how much you like full break-in. I find that I can do better in pile-ups with it, and I enjoy the feeling of knowing what's happening on my frequency when I'm transmitting. Other people I know go into sensory overload, finding QSK "too busy." I suggest trying QSK for a while, perhaps with your barefoot transceiver, before buying into it with a QSK-1500.

(Paul Young is editor of Scuttlebutt, the newsletter of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club).

160

EI9J 1836 0400 8 MA
J28EI 1837 0218 13 MA
SV0AA 1835 0305 8 MA

80

3B9CD 3505 0215 16 MA
GU0/ON6PJ 3795 0400 14 MA
GU0/ON6TW 3505 0135 16 MA
J28EI 3503 0150 13 MA
SP0ITU 3793 0310 11 MA
VK0GC 3795 1010 6 MN

40

4K1C 7002 1111 8 MN
7S4SSA 7021 0220 16 MA
8P6AU 7012 1027 15 GA
8R1J 7013 1026 15 GA
AX6ITU 7005 1056 17 MN
CE0ZIG 7010 0555 11 MA
CE0ZIG 7011 0553 14 MA
CO2PY 7002 1015 14 GA
FM5WE 7075 1018 14 GA
FR4ZD 7010 0330 10 MA
HC5NAI 7013 0014 14 FL
HI3PC 7029 0938 14 GA
HP1XKR 7017 0520 11 MA
HP1XKR 7013 0455 14 EU
J28EI 7003 0125 9 MI
J88BL 7005 0525 14 MA
JW0EQ 7001 0045 7 MA
KX6DS 7004 1005 12 MA
OA4IU 7010 0500 14 MA
OA4JR 7008 0555 14 MA
SV0AH 7005 2148 14 MA
SV0DU/9 7005 0220 16 MA
SV1NY 7004 0335 14 MA
TR8IG 7007 2250 9 MA
V2A 7003 0215 15 CO
V2A 7005 0330 15 MA
VK3ARB 7033 0945 14 GA
YB0ARA 7004 1330 9 CO
YN1CC 7007 0957 14 GA
ZC4RB 7014 0102 11 MD

20

1Z9A 14226 1510 11 MN
1Z9A 14227 1550 13 CA
3A2TO 14221 1715 10 MA
3V8PS 14227 2150 13 CO
3V8PS 14227 2145 8 MA
3X0HAB 14145 0730 11 FL
4X4FR 14202 0442 11 CA
4X4FR 14238 2147 10 MA
5N3/24HHB 14213 2250 12 MA
5N8BKM 14226 0014 13 NH
5N8BKN 14243 0025 12 CO
5Z4ED 14169 2000 10 OR
7S2SSA 14204 1805 11 CA
7X2BK 14156 2241 10 MA
7X2LS 14195 2340 8 CO
9N1MM 14164 0248 16 MA
9Q5MA 1183 1900 6 CO
9V1VY 14228 1216 11 TX
A4XRS 14158 2030 16 MA
A71BK 14166 2017 8 CO
A92EM 14227 2100 6 CO
AP2SQ 14158 0116 17 MA
BY1PK 14031 1450 12 MA
BY1PK 14033 0033 10 FL
BY1PK 14060 0030 4 MA
BY1QH 14200 0640 8 OR
BY1QH 14226 2349 8 MD
BY1QH 14227 2330 11 CO
BY1QH 14227 2325 11 CA
BY1QH 14225 2325 13 CA
BY1QH 14227 2331 11 NH
BY4AA 14227 0132 7 MD
BY4AA 14226 0042 7 TX
BY5RA 14227 2337 10 MD
C21RK 14200 1320 11 CO
C21RK 14201 1203 11 TX
C21RK 14200 1230 11 MN
C31NP 14017 1105 13 MA
CE0FQV 14188 0046 9 MD
CN8EL 14227 2141 10 CA
CT2EF 14203 0000 14 CO
CT3ET 14037 2233 10 FL
D44BC 14195 0028 13 TX
DU1/G4DUW 14228 11U54 11 MN
DU1/G4DUW 14232 1250 11 MA
DU2/KF6ME 14027 1236 11 NM
DU7/N7ET 14036 1329 11 OR
DU9RG 14169 1234 10 MD
DU9RG 14183 1325 11 CO
DU9RG 14190 1244 12 MN
DU9RG 14190 1242 12 NH
EA6/G6ZY 14025 2320 8 FL
EA8/DF2UQ 14244 0055 15 CO
EA9GK 14020 0000 10 OR
EA9GK 14020 0100 10 FL
EA9KQ 14028 0023 11 FL
EO5BYM 14194 0505 12 CA
EO9ACS 14202 0435 12 CA
EO9AYB 14188 0122 11 MA
EV9AW 14207 0248 11 CA
FK0AE 14210 0400 16 CO
FK8FF 1423 0530 16 CO
HC1CB 14030 2254 12 GA
HL1CG 14033 1116 15 MA
HL1EJ 14020 1240 11 MN
HL9AA 14208 1253 10 MD
J28DN 14152 2230 11 MA
J28EI 14014 0059 11 FL
J5WAD 14158 2025 16 MA
JA3ZZY 14186 2116 10 NY
JT1AG 14045 1345 11 CO
JT1AS 14032 0025 10 OR
JT1AS 14034 0039 10 FL
JT1KAA 14029 1535 7 OR
JT1KAA 14038 1532 12 OR
JW6VDA 14220 1209 8 MD
JW6VDA 14211 1545 10 OR
JY5CI 14227 2100 13 CO
JY9WR 14025 1900 9 MA
KC6JA 14220 0715 10 OR
KC6JC 14227 2350 13 CO
KC6TR 14295 0515 16 CO
KH2/KB6DAW 14185 1245 10 CO
KX6AY 14308 0500 12 MN
KX6DS 14031 0630 11 IL
KX6PO 14230 0355 14 MN
KX6PO 14309 0330 9 MN
LX1JP 14019 2130 14 MA
LX1ML 14023 2229 10 FL
OD5MJ 14217 2200 8 MA
OD5MJ 14218 2150 8 CO
OD5YU 14173 2102 16 MA
OD5ZX 14238 2206 10 MA
OX3PL 14182 0128 11 MA
OX3UD 14040 1242 10 GA
P29DP 14191 1150 15 TX
P29VH 14218 1225 11 MN
SV1JG 14177 0550 11 OR
SV9/DL7FT 14195 2225 12 CO
T32AN 14309 0320 8 MN
T40PAZ 14211 0010 12 CA
T77C 14028 1845 11 IL
T77C 14029 1808 11 MN
TA1D 14023 2150 8 FL
TK5UC 14196 1720 10 MA
TZ6FE 14187 0026 8 MD
UA0YAN 14031 0044 10 FL
UA9SC 14014 0143 11 MA
UB5HAF 14215 0435 11 CA
UD6AI 14001 2R100 10 OR
UF6FB 14175 2000 11 MA
UG7GWB 14038 1312 12 GA
UH8EAA 14017 2355 11 OR
UH8EAA 14164 2110 11 MA
UI8BI 14028 0110 12 OR
UI8FWA 14029 0110 12 FL
UI8IBB 14013 0400 10 OR
UI8LB 14033 1225 10 GA
UL7GA 14027 1239 11 MN
UL7GEE 14014 0151 11 MA
UL7GM 14003 0235 11 MI
UL7IBN 14010 0205 11 OR
UL8AWA 14249 0452 12 CA
UL8CWJ 14040 0120 11 FL
UL8LWA 14009 0345 11 OR
UL8LWO 14072 1120 12 GA
UL8LWO 14058 0215 12 OR
UL8RWE 14225 1430 10 OR
UM8AW 14017 1200 15 MA
UM8MU 14176 0119 11 MA
UM8NBA 14012 0158 12 FL
UW3HY/1 14026 1057 15 MA
UW3HY/1 14026 2252 5 MD
UW3HY/1 14027 0000 10 OR
UW3HY/1 14028 0030 10 FL
UW3HY/1 14025 1328 10 MI
UZ9UZA 14215 0305 11 CA
V85HG 14208 1400 11 CO
V85HG 14208 1546 11 TX
VK0GC 14409 0315 16 MN
VK9NL 14220 0700 10 OR
VP2BDG 14210 1200 10 CO
VR6AB 14165 0345 5 CO
VS6CT 14235 1257 11 MA
VS6DX 14185 1315 10 MA
VS6DX 14227 0135 7 MD
VS6DX 14227 1456 13 CA
VU2AU 14158 0112 17 MA
VU2CK 14186 0124 9 MD
VU2GK 14184 0252 11 NH
VU2JNA 14185 0159 10 NH
VU2OO 14200 0100 16 MA
VU2SU 14031 0126 11 FL
WH8AAJ 14030 0412 6 MN
YB0ARA 14185 1520 11 MN
YB8AY 14197 1241 10 MD
YB8QD 14153 1450 10 OR
YB9ARA 14236 1235 11 MN
YI1BGD 14205 2047 9 OH
YJ8FB 14214 0258 9 CA
YJ8RG 14309 0437 12 MN
ZB2GR 14258 2335 10 MD
ZC4AB 14227 2144 9 TX
ZC4AB 14227 2100 6 CO
ZC4AB 14244 2130 13 CO
ZC4RB 14022 0109 11 FL;
ZK1RE 14252 0343 7 MN
J88AQ 21245 2012 11 TX
TR8DR 21303 2235 13 CO

KEY TO BANDPASS:
Callsign;
Frequency;
UTC;
day of month;
state.

PLEASE WRITE OR PHONE TO REQUEST REPORT FORMS AND ENVELOPES; mail them to TDXB anytime, or phone:

203-742-7124

(24 hours).

QSL INFO

3D6AJ WB3CQN
3X0HAB DL8CM
4U0ITU K4XL (5/11/85)
4U0ITU F6EYS (5/3/85)
5N6RTF DK2IF
5Z4ED JH6FMU
7S0SSA SM5RK
7S2SSA SK2AU
7S5SSA SM5CAK
7S7SSA SM6CVE
CE0LBS I1FOU
CE3DNP LU8DPH
CN8EL W2PD
EW2C UC1AWC
FM5WD W3HNK
GV2TW GM2TW
GV4MRS G3YOA
HP1XKR JA7AGO
HW5LE F6FNB
II2ARI I2AOX
J28EI FC1JEN
JW6VDA LA5NM
JY9WR G4ATS
LZ9MAY LZ1KDP
OG1AA OH1AA
ON6PJ/GU ON7JF
TG9VT W3HNK
TK5UC FC9UC
TR8DR W2PD
TZ6FE DL4BC
V2A W2JT
VP2E/NL7G KL7GNP
VU2ISV N4JR
ZP5XGG N4DW
A71BK BOX 1556, DOHA
CE0FQV BOX 59, EASTER
CE0ZIG BOX AIRPORT, EASTER
FW8AF FRANCIS, BOX 98, WALLIS
TA1D KADRI, BOX 1167, ISTANBUL
YB8AY BOX 77, MAKASAR

CALENDAR

ISSUE 288

CONTEST	CQ WPX CW May 25/26
MOROKUL1EN	LB5LG for WPX Contest; 1287
MARKET REEF	Rumored during WPX weekend
MAURITANIA	5T5MS until July; Issue 288
GUERNSEY	Special calls now; 1286
CAMBODIA	XU1SS rumored on again; no reports
CHAD	G3KQ1 rumored there in May, July
LIECHTENSTEIN	DA1WA/HB0 May 20-Jun 5
AUSTRALIA	Can use "VI" prefixes until December
GUINEA	DL7AH/3X rumored continues until June
UGANDA	By KC7UU possible soon; 1285
PITCAIRN	DXPress says ZL4DW/VR6AB there for next two months, Saturday best
CRETE	SV0DV/9 (W0PU) until December
RHODES	SV0AH is there, does not use /5
FRANZ JOSEF	UA1OT, UW3HY/1, and EO1AOK all active
CHINA	BY5RA with W7PHO 14.227/0000Z; Issue 287 DK7PE there June 9; 1285
ST BRANDON	Rumors of a 3B7CD operation soon
RAF BASES	ZC4 DXCC credit Jun 1; Issue 288
RODRIGUES	3B9CD There until June
S SHETLANDS	4K1F there on 40, 20 CW; need reports
CYPRUS	RAF bases DXCC credit Jun 1; 1274
MOZAMBIQUE	C90A active, no DXCC credit; Issue 281
UGANDA	5X5GK active, no DXCC credit
GUINEA-BISSAU	J5WAD active on 20 only
BALEARIC IS	Rumored by PA2AJS and PA3DOT May 25-Jun 6
MACQUARIE	VK0GC likes 75 SSB at 1000Z; on 20, too
RHODES	K7VAY/SV5 Jun/Jul, CW
VATICAN	Rumored by I5FLN, I8AA end of June
CONTEST	RSGB Field Day Jun 1,2
S GEORGIA	And S. Sandwich later this year; 1284
KERGUELEN	FT8YY confirmed for Nov; details next issue
CONTEST	All Asia Phone Jun 15,16
"CONTEST"	ARRL Field Day Jun 22,23
NEW BAND	24 MHz opens for U.S. Jun 22; 1287

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, K1MEM, K1XM, K8GG, WA8CZS, K6IR, K4BAI, W0IJR, KA0CDN, W1AX, K5RC, WD5AAM, KA1XN, K0CVD, W6BJ1, W4BAA, N6ADK, KD7SO, K9U1Y, W4VQ, W8CT, W1CYB, KB2XR, N5H1, K3ZO, KM1E, N2KK/6, K8EM,

QSL HELP NEEDED

*T30ZK (Mar 8, 1985), by W1WAI.

*FH8CQ (Aug 13, 1983), by WB4LJP.

*FP0ADE (Feb 16, 1985), and
*FG5AM (Feb 17, 1985), by KE9A.

*VP2KAK is via YASME;
*G4AVW/ST3 is Box 2632, Khartoum.

****

FOR SALE

Alpha 76CA, (3) 8874s, Hypersil transformer, mint condition in original box, new-style grey panel, $1895. Everett Jackson, WA8CZS, 1-614-7971 evenings.

****

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 50 ISSUES

FIRST CLASS MAIL TO U.S., CANADA, MEXICO: $35

NEWSPAPER RATE MAIL TO LOWER 48 STATES ONLY; $28

OVERSEAS AIRMAIL: $50 (U.S. FUNDS)

PLEASE WRITE OR PHONE 203-742-7124 TO REQUEST REPORT FORMS AND RETURN ENVELOPES. WE ALWAYS NEED REPORTS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE WEST COAST AND OVERSEAS.

The DX Bulletin
Andover, CT 06232
U.S.A.

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Andover, CT
Permit No. 1

FIRST CLASS MAIL